

Interesting Allies
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There is an expression that “Politics makes for strange bedfellows.” It conveys the idea that two parties who otherwise would not give each other the time of day can, because of a political alliance, end up in an odd but close relationship. I think I have seen a great example of this on the international level over the past two years.

This week our nation is celebrating its anniversary of independence from English rule. In 1776 we declared ourselves to be independent of British Sovereignty, then won a brutal war with England to solidify ourselves as an independent national entity. However, over the last two years, Great Britain has demonstrated its willingness to stand as our strongest ally in the international arena.

It is just politics? I don’t think so. I believe that it came about as a result of our history. Certainly our two nations served as enemies on more than one occasion, but we have also stood side by side as allies in more than one war. Just as our nation won its freedom because of our refusal to be dominated by another power, we have refused to stand by and watch when one nation threatens another.

I believe that because we have suffered and died at the side of the British during two world wars, the English would not stand by and allow us to stand alone against terrorism. They realized that this threat to us was a threat to their own way of life, as well.

Here, we have an alliance because of a common enemy, but also because of a common history. We have both stood for the right to self-determination and have together opposed oppression and tyranny. Our kinship has been forged in the blood shed on the common battlefields. We have become brothers.

A few years ago, I met a man who was the Episcopal Bishop for Okinawa. He was a Japanese who had been trained as a suicide pilot in World War II, but the Navy was running too short of planes. They decided to retrain him to serve as a human torpedo, but the war was ended before he was sent on a mission. He came under the influence of some Christian missionaries in Japan after the war and became a Christian. He later entered the ministry and had eventually become the Bishop for Okinawa.

When I met him, I told him that my Grandfather had served as a U. S. Navy pilot in the Pacific during WWII, but had later entered the ministry, as well. The Bishop replied, “Isn’t it amazing that where political ideology made us enemies, the blood of Christ made us brothers!”

Sometimes, it isn’t politics that brings us together, but blood which was shed for a greater purpose. Happy Independence Day!

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.